

1 Interview Summaries

1.1 USGS

Interview Type	Telephone, Federal
Interview Location	
Interview Date	December 17, 2001
Summary Date	December 19, 2001
Interviewer	CDM / Michelle Thaler (thalerma@cdm.com)
Interviewed:	Lynn Bjorklung 508-490-5074

Staff Size (approx)

Budget (approx)

URL: <http://www.usgs.gov/>

1.1.1 Overview

USGS has data programs with state and local governments, giving credit for value added work done to USGS data sets. OGIS signed an agreement with USGS for work on creating elevation data. OGIS staff digitized contour lines on USGS data and then USGS used these contour lines to produce DEMs. USGS gave OGIS credit towards producing digital orthophotos for a part of the state that did not exist at that time.

USGS is providing funding and training as part of its Innovative Partnership program. With the state of Maine, this program is providing training on specific ArcInfo tools for the development of the National Hydrography Dataset. USGS is hoping to set up a data maintenance agreement with OGIS to maintain the data after it is created. Additionally, an agreement is in place between Maine and USGS regarding Digital Orthophotographic Quarter Quads (DOQQ)s.

1.1.2 GIS Initiatives

1.1.2.1 Data used from Maine OGIS and other state departments

Format

- UTM NAD 83 Meters

Exchange Methods

- none

Data Layers

- Elevation data digitized by OGIS staff

Issues

- USGS is not always aware when OGIS data sets are updated. Metadata exists but this does not help with update information

1.1.2.2 Data given to Maine

- Digital Orthophotos from 1998 are in production now
- Drainage divides coverage – this data was started by USGS and digitized by the Maine Geologic Survey
- DOQs

1.1.3 Other Relevant Issues

- USGS regards Maine's GIS as at or near the top when compared to all New England states. The USGS is always interested in seeing GIS data put into the public domain and they are very positive about the OGIS web site and data catalog.
- USGS would like to get a copy of the statewide E911 data when it is complete
- USGS is in the process of transitioning away from tiling its data based on the 7.5-minute quad sheets. They would like to see Maine also move away from tiling data and towards seamless coverages
- USGS suggested that Maine investigate a program by the FGDC for creating a business plan and building a data model. <http://www.fgdc.gov/I-Team>
- The US Office of Management and Budget has an information initiative called the National Spatial Data Infrastructure.
- USGS is interested in contributing to data in the public domain; that data should meet national standards or industry standards for file structure and accuracy
- National standards for resolution are changing. USGS would be interested in higher resolution data over the greater Portland area
- USGS is concerned about associating with one data format (ie. ESRI, Intergraph, etc) They would like interoperable standards for data development but realize that most New England states use ESRI GIS software.
- USGS works with Maine DEP and Maine Geological Survey . This data is not necessarily available through OGIS. There should be a list of contacts for other state agencies who have GIS data.